

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



ALFRED A. TANAKA, P.E.
ACTING DIRECTOR

TPD06-00018

January 19, 2006

Mr. Daniel Dinell, Executive Director
Hawaii Community Development Authority
677 Ala Moana Boulevard, Suite 1001
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Mr. Dinell:

Subject: Queen Street Improvements Project: ID-11

This responds to your recent question on utility and infrastructure improvements related to the Honolulu High Capacity Transit Corridor Project (HHCTC) and a possible alignment which includes a fixed guideway on Queen Street.

It is our understanding that your agency's planned Queen Street Improvements Project: ID-11 between Ward Avenue and Kamakee Street will include the under grounding of overhead lines, drainage improvements, curbs, gutters, sidewalks, and roadway improvements. These improvements are being done as part of the master plan for the area to improve and upgrade existing drainage and roadway conditions in the area.

Currently, one out of the four fixed guideway alternative alignments impacts the planned ID-11 project. This alternative involves a Queen Street alignment through Kakaako. If the City were to select this alignment, we are not likely to be able to incorporate the type of improvements being planned by your ID-11 project.

According to FTA (Federal Transit Administration) funding guidelines, fixed guideway project improvements need to be "physically related" and "functionally related" to the HHCTC project. Also, FTA design and construction guidelines and procedures state that utility funding is limited to the "amount necessary to relocate and/or rearrange the facilities to effect a condition equal

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to the existing utility facilities." In addition, it is stated that utility and infrastructure improvements for a project cannot be done to "provide for greater capacity and capability."

In essence, any utility improvements undertaken by the HHCTC project would result in the restoration of a utility to its previous condition. For example, if existing overhead lines in the area were impacted by the HHCTC project, the City would only be able to restore the overhead lines to a condition at least equal to the way it was prior to construction. Similarly, the HHCTC project would not be able to widen Queen Street in the area since it would result in an increase in capacity of the roadway.

I hope this clarifies your questions on the matter.

Sincerely,



ALFRED A. TANAKA, P. E.
Acting Director

mb (B. Suzuki)

